(a) whether it is a fact that the number of job seeking youths registered with employment exchanges in the country has continuously been increasing over the years;

(b) if so, what has been the number of such job seekers during June-July, 1997, !998 and 1999;

(c) whether these unemployed people have been provided with employment through the above employment exchanges; and

(d) if so, what is the number of those people who had been provided with jobs during the above years, year-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) and (b) The total number of job seekers all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country as on 30th June, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were 38.0, 39.5 and 40.6 million respectively.

(c) and (d) The placement effected by the employment exchanges during the period July to June for the year 1996,1997 and 1998 were 2.56,2.53 and 2.26 lakh respectively.

Unemployed persons in the country

1350. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) What is the total number of unemployed persons in the country and whether Government have formulated any effective scheme to provide employment to them in a time bound manner; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LAL): (a) and (b) The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on 30th June 1999 was of the order of 40.59 million.

The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in region characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and has adopted a National Employment Assurance Scheme. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahlluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each year).

†Original notice of the Question wai received in Hindi.